

Photo courtesy of Ray Marshall



UNITED METHODISTS FOCUS ON LONG-TERM RECOVERY AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA

Helping heal hearts and homes

We United Methodists are resourceful, energetic, faithful people. This has been demonstrated all over Mississippi in recent weeks. Local churches have been at work in the community, comforting, welcoming, sheltering, feeding, helping. We have heard countless personal stories. We know every impacted household has a unique story, unique loss, and unique challenges.

Now families need help accessing resources for rebuilding or relocation. The noted specialty of UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, is faithful case work in long-term disaster recovery. Case work includes the whole spectrum of listening, documenting, connecting survivors with services, assisting them to make individualized plans, and leading all toward self-sufficiency and recovery.

Recovery from Katrina will take years. Many organizations offer the good gift of emergency assistance after a disaster. Very few remain for the long work of relief and recovery. The call of God to us is the call to perseverance. We look to the Mississippi United Methodist Katrina Response staff to lead us in this healing work.

- Bishop Hope Morgan Ward



UMMS photo by Mike Dubose

GOALS

- Restore persons to safe, permanent homes as soon as possible
- Be attentive to, and where possible, address spiritual, emotional, and other needs of these persons
- Affirm, encourage, and offer support to local churches participating in the recovery effort
- Organize and deploy volunteers to maximize recovery to extend beyond what congregations can accomplish on their own
- Partner with other organizations to enhance efforts

FOR WAYS TO HELP WITH KATRINA RELIEF, CALL TOLL-FREE 866-435-7091

Ways to give

United Methodists and friends have four avenues to give to the ministry of relief and recovery for the devastation done by Hurricane Katrina. Your gifts will strengthen the ministry of The United Methodist Church as we persevere in helping heal hearts and homes by comforting impacted people, supporting impacted churches, and rebuilding our communities. For any of the four options, you may put your check in your church offering plate or mail contributions to Mississippi Conference, P.O. Box 1201, Jackson, MS 39215.

□ **Local Communities**

These gifts will provide direct assistance to impacted people in Mississippi's storm-torn communities.

Please make checks payable to Mississippi Conference.

On the memo line, mark your check Mississippi UMCOR.

□ **Local Churches and Clergy**

These gifts will fund salaries and other uninsured and underinsured losses of impacted clergy and churches. The conference anticipates uninsured property losses to exceed \$4 million. If you desire, you may designate a specific area, need, or church.

Please make checks payable to Mississippi Conference.

On the memo line, mark your check Local Church.

□ **Gulf Coast**

These gifts will support UMCOR's Katrina recovery efforts in communities across Mississippi,

Louisiana, and Alabama. Conferences in these three states will share in the funds raised.

Please make checks payable to UMCOR.

On the memo line, mark your check Advance #982523.

□ **Bishops' Katrina Church Recovery Appeal**

These gifts will replenish United Methodist churches and institutions on the Gulf Coast. Established by the Council of Bishops, the appeal will focus on restoring hurricane-damaged United Methodist facilities, building new ministries, and addressing a wide range of other local church and conference needs, such as paying salaries and providing hymnals, Bibles, and other worship materials.

Please make checkes payable to UMCOR.

On the memo line, mark your check Bishops' Appeal. Advance #818-001. Donate online at www.umc.org/churchrecovery.

MISSISSIPPI UNITED METHODIST KATRINA RESPONSE

Helping heal hearts and homes